

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 6107N

DEPT PASS DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE PASS MCMILLAN/REP & FOREIGN VISITORS STAFF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, PL(BARCIKOWSKI, KAZIMIERZ)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF POLISH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

1. MINISTER BARCIKOWSKI ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM TODAY. HE
RAISED THREE SUBJECTS.

2. FIRST, HE SAID THAT, DURING THE CROP-YEAR 1975-76, POLAND
WOULD LIKE TO BUY FROM THE U.S. ABOUT ONE MILLION TONS OF
FEED GRAIN. OBVIOUSLY, HE SAID, THE POLISH GOVERNMENT VERY
MUCH HOPED THAT A PORTION OF THIS COULD BE FINANCED THROUGH
CCC CREDITS. THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE WAS, OF COURSE, FULLY
AWARE OF THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE PLACING OF ORDERS WHICH HAD
BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE POLISH AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. HE SAID THAT POLAND IS A
"DISCIPLINED CUSTOMER" AND, SINCE POLAND ALSO PRIDED ITSELF
ON BEING A LONG-TERM AND CONSISTENT PURCHASER OF U.S. GRAIN,
HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD SCRUPULOUSLY RESPECT THESE RESTRICTIONS.
HOWEVER, BEFORE HE EMBARKED UPON HIS VISIT TO THE U.S.,
HE WANTED TO GIVE US HIS GOVERNMENT'S ESTIMATE OF THE
AMOUNT OF GRAIN POLAND PLANNED TO PURCHASE THIS YEAR.

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3. SECONDLY, THE MINISTER SAID HE VERY MUCH HOPED THAT,

WHEN HE SAW SECRETARY BUTZ, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT THAT POLAND AND THE U.S. SHOULD CONCLUDE A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL PURCHASES. THE POLISH GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO IMPORT SIZABLE QUANTITIES OF GRAIN FROM THE U.S. AT LEAST UNTIL 1985 AND PERHAPS UNTIL 1990. AT PRESENT, THE POLISH GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES THAT IT WOULD PURCHASE TWO-AND-ONE-HALF MILLION TONS OF GRAIN ANNUALLY FROM THE U.S. EACH YEAR UNTIL 1980. THIS FIGURE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO BEING INCREASED OR DIMINISHED BY ABOUT 20 PERCENT DEPENDING UPON THE SIZE OF THE POLISH HARVEST. IT SEEMED TO HIM, THE MINISTER SAID, THAT THE BEST FORM FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND SECRETARY BUTZ. IF THE U.S. AGREES, THE POLISH SIDE PROPOSES THAT SUCH LETTERS MIGHT BE EXCHANGED AFTER MINISTER BARCIKOWSKI RETURNS TO POLAND. THE MINISTER SAID THAT HIS LAWYERS TOLD HIM THAT SUCH AN EXCHANGE WOULD HAVE OBLIGATORY FORCE. HE PROPOSED THAT THE INTENTIONS OF THE SIGNATORIES WITH REGARD TO THE EXTENSION OF CREDIT SHOULD BE STATED IN THE LETTERS. ADDITIONALLY, THE LETTERS WOULD CONTAIN A DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBILITIES FOR THE EXPORT TO THE U.S. OF POLISH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, SINCE, AS THE MINISTER EXPLAINED, " WE WILL COUNT ON CONTINUING AND, IF POSSIBLE, INCREASING OUR AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE U.S. IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO PAY YOU FOR OUR IMPORTS OF GRAIN".

4. FINALLY, THE MINISTER SAID, THE POLISH SIDE WOULD LIKE TO PROCEED NOW TO WORK OUT A VETERINARY CONVENTION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT WHICH THE TWO SIDES AHD DURING UNDER SECRETARY CAMPBELL'S VISIT TO WARSAW IN APRIL, 1975.
DAVIES

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